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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,190	07/28/2000	Yasuhide Matsumoto	1405.1023/JDH	2686
21171	7590	03/08/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/628,190

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on December 30, 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)     | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicants' Amendment filed on December 30, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 7-10 have been amended. Applicants' newly add claims 14-17. Claims 1-10 are presented for further examination. Claims 14-17 are also presented for examination.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **1-10** and **14-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christofferson et al (hereinafter, "Christofferson", U.S. Pat. No. 6,807,563) in view of Knight et al (hereinafter, "Knight", U.S. Pat. No. 6,721,748).

As per claim **1**, Christofferson discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising:

- providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 6, lines 7-19, col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

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- monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword, according to the monitoring (col. 9, lines 18-39).

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category to the user who sent the message to the virtual space.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category to the user who sent the message to the virtual space (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claim 2, Christofferson discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system comprising:

- a category table in which predetermined keywords and predetermined categories are stored such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 9, lines 18-39);

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- a user table that stores users, predetermined keywords sent by the users via messages, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and categories are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a conversation space, determining based on said category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword according to the monitoring.

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of the user by writing in said user table the user as a sender of the message, the keyword in the message according to the monitoring, and the determined category.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- creating a profile of the user by writing in said user table the user as a sender of the message, the keyword in the message according to the monitoring, and the determined category (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claim 3, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

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- wherein said user table stores valid period and time at which the keyword was sent, in addition to the users, the keywords, and the categories (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);
- said administration means further obtains from the conversation system the time at which the message containing the keyword was sent (col. 6, lines 7-19); and
- said administration means writing in said user table the time of the message and the valid period of the message, in addition to the keyword sender, the keyword and the category, and deleting an entry whose valid period since the time of message has expired (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 4, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and message senders whose messages are related to the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- said administration means creates a conversation log in the conversation space, obtains from the conversation log and the conversation system the senders of messages that were sent before and/or after the message containing the keyword was sent, and writes in said user table the senders as related users, such that the related users are correlated with the keywords (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 5, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein said user table stores the users, the keywords, the categories and rating data that indicates harmfulness for each user (col. 6, lines 7-19); and

- said administration means updates the rating data of a user when a predetermined harmful keyword is sent (col. 6, lines 7-19).

As per claim 6, Christofferson discloses the profile creation system as set forth in claim 2,

- wherein the conversation system processes messages exchanged by the conversation devices based on users' categories stored in said user table (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39).

As per claim 7, Christofferson discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

A: storing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other (col. 6, lines 7-19, col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

B: monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and

C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message contains the keyword, according to the monitoring (col. 9, lines 1-39).

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of a sender of the message by correlating the determined category, to the sender of the message.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- creating a profile of a sender of the message by correlating the determined category, to the sender of the message (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claim 8, Christofferson discloses a profile creation method for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said method comprising:

- identifying based on the category table a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword (col. 9, lines 18-39)
  - monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual conversation space contains at least one of the keywords, according to the monitoring (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);
- and

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category to the user who sent the message to the virtual space.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:



- creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category to the user who sent the message to the virtual space (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claim 9, Christofferson discloses a profile creation system for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation system utilizing a category table that can be referred to via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation system comprising:

- a user table storing users, predetermined keywords spoken by the user, and the categories, such that the users, keywords, and the categories are correlated to one another (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and
- administration means for monitoring in the conversation system a message to be sent by a user to a virtual conversation space, determining based on the category table whether or not the message contains one of the keywords, determining based on the category table category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains a keyword, according to the monitoring.

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of the user by writing in said user table the user as a sender of the message, the keyword in the message according to the monitoring, and the determined category.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- creating a profile of the user by writing in said user table the user as a sender of the message, the keyword in the message according to the monitoring, and the determined category (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claim 10, Christofferson discloses a computer-readable recording media having a profile creation program for use in a conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said profile creation program utilizing a category table that can be referenced via the network, predetermined keywords and predetermined categories being correlated to each other in the category table, said profile creation program executing a process comprising:

- A: monitoring in the conversation system a message sent to a virtual conversation space (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39);

B: determining based on the category table whether the message contains one of the keywords (col. 9, lines 1-39);

C: determining based on the category table a category that corresponds to the keyword if the message contains the keyword (col. 8, lines 62-67 and col. 9, lines 1-39); and

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- creating a profile of the user by a sender of the message by correlating the sender to the determined category.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- creating a profile of the user by a sender of the message by correlating the sender to the determined category (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claims 14 and 16, Christofferson discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose wherein the predetermined categories are a personal interest and a personal characteristic, and the method further comprises:

- providing message-attribute based virtual space services to users in the virtual conversation space according to the profile of the user created based upon the

correlating of the personal interest and the personal characteristic predetermined categories to the user.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- providing message-attribute based virtual space services to users in the virtual conversation space according to the profile of the user created based upon the correlating of the personal interest and the personal characteristic predetermined categories to the user (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

As per claims **15** and **17**, Christofferson discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Christofferson does not explicitly disclose:

- rating the user according to the personal interest and the personal characteristic categories correlated to the user based upon the message transmitted by the user; and
- providing the rating the users as one of the messages-attribute based virtual space services.

Knight discloses an intelligent data content provider system including:

- rating the user according to the personal interest and the personal characteristic categories correlated to the user based upon the message transmitted by the user (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51); and
- providing the rating the users as one of the messages-attribute based virtual space services (col. 20, lines 19-38 and col. 25, lines 26-51).

Given the teaching of Knight, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Christofferson by creating user profiles from keywords within messages posted by users in order to allow service providers to accurately collect true user profile information of his/her subscribers so that content can be effectively managed and tailored to the community as a whole.

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 and 14-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2157

ltj  
March 1, 2006

  
ARIO ETIENNE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER